

Remarks

Claim Rejections 35 USC § 101

Examiner rejects claims 1-14 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Applicant understands the basis for this rejection is because Examiner believes the claims are directed only to software. Applicant requests reconsideration in view of the following remarks and revision of claim 1.

Claim 1, as amended, is directed to a register which comprises a controller which performs certain tasks relating to the maintenance of the data and handover to another register. While the controller will typically execute software to perform the maintenance tasks, it is clear that the claimed "register" comprises at least the hardware of the controller and is more than simply software. Indeed, Examiner's comment under 35 U.S.C. §112 "the operation of the register could be implemented in the form of software but not the register itself" suggests that the Examiner acknowledges that the register is apparatus. Claim 14 has been amended to clarify the features of the register which are implemented in software. It is respectfully requested that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §101 be withdrawn.

Examiner rejects claims 17-18 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims 17 and 18 have been canceled.

Claim Rejections 35 USC § 112

Examiner rejects claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to meet the written description requirement.

In view of the clarifying amendments made to claim 14, and the remarks made above, it is respectfully requested that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112 is withdrawn.

Claim Objections

Claim 16 is hereby canceled.

Claim Rejections 35 USC § 103

Examiner rejects claims 1-6, 14, 16-18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Coulombe* (US 6,115,463) in view of *Klein* (US 5,873,101) and further in view of *Price* (US 6,144,857). Reconsideration is requested in view of the following remarks.

The present invention, as recited in claim 1, describes a process of handing over maintenance of some segments of user data from a first register to a mate register. This allows those segments at the first register to be repaired while the mate register continues to maintain the data for those users. This will involve responding to requests to access the data and to update the data (e.g. due to a user's new location).

Coulombe describes migration of subscriber data between Home Location Registers of a telecommunications system in response to a command from a data administrator. *Coulombe* does not describe a handover of maintenance of migrated user data to another register but is only concerned with sending the data to another register. *Klein* describes a general database backup/restore transfer process. *Klein*, also, only describes the transfer of data between storage locations and does not describe a handover of the task of maintaining user data. Transfer of data is distinct from the process of maintaining the transferred data. Neither *Coulombe* nor *Klein* describe the limitation of "carrying out a partial handover to the mate register by handing over maintenance of data of one or some of the segments to the mate register temporarily" recited in claim 1. In view of this, even if one of ordinary skill in the art were to combine *Coulombe* with *Klein* they would not arrive at a register which includes all of the limitations of claim 1.

For completeness, it is noted that *Price* operates in a different manner to the presently claimed invention. *Price* describes a system having a Primary HLR and a Cascade HLR but user data is stored, and maintained, by only one of the HLRs (see, for example, col. 5 lines 21-24). *Price* does not describe backing up user data to another register or handing over maintenance of user data to a mate register.

Claims 2-6 and 16 are also considered to be allowable at least by virtue of being dependent on an allowable base claim. Claim 14 has been amended to recite the features which are implemented in software.

Allowable Subject Matter

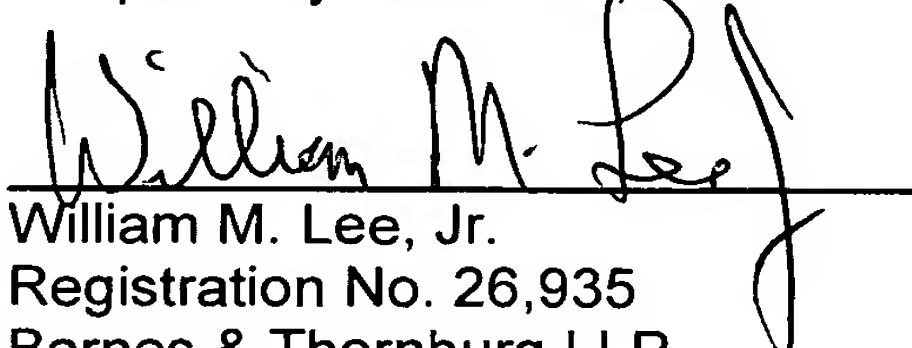
Examiner's indication of claims 7-13 as containing allowable subject matter is appreciated. These claims have been written in independent form including the revised form of claim 1.

It is noted that although Examiner has indicated in the 'Office Action Summary' that claim 15 is rejected, no formal rejection to this claim has been presented. Applicant therefore considers claim 15 to be allowable.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims pending in this application are in condition for allowance. Early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William M. Lee, Jr.", is written over a horizontal line.

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